

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace section on page 9, lines 18-24 as follows:

According to various embodiments of the present invention, the gripping means of the arcuate locking members may include, a granular material, a plurality of teeth defined by the arcuate locking member material, an abrasive grit or other abrasive material affixed to the arcuate locking members, a plurality of radial ridges defined by the arcuate locking member material, or another textured material that is selected to have a gripping ability with respect to the outer surface of the male piping member.

Please replace section on page 10, lines 20-24 as follows:

In other embodiments this ramp angle may also be ~~set at other angles that~~ adjusted to provide an improved distribution of the force imparted by the gland bearing surface so as to delay the radially-inward, teeth-engaging motion of the locking members until after the sealing portion has been adequately compressed to achieve a satisfactory seal.

Please replace section on page 12, lines 4-6 as follows:

In other embodiments, the arc length may be varied such that the restraining portion **430** is composed of more or less individual arcuate locking members **470** (such as, for example, an arc length of 15 degrees).